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JUNE 30, 2001

HAROLD WEISBERG
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FREDERICK, MD. 21702

Dear Hal:

I received your latest letter and I appreciate the comments about my retiring & your wishing that we could celebrate this. If I can — and I really will do everything I can — I'd like sometime in the very near future to visit you.

As I'm writing this I'm actually on vacation from my job (3 weeks in all). I have not yet formally retired and will explain this below.

I mentioned to Dave Wrone (in a phone call) that on July 9th I'm going in for surgery (on my heart valve). I've contacted the surgeon and my cardiologist & I feel I can no longer put it off (My cardiologist has insisted the longer I wait the more acute my condition could get).

As an instance of this "acuteness" I noticed that whereas I used to walk about a mile each working day (in the morning — to get to where I work) I now can no longer do this. I get tired easily — So you see why I finally made this decision.

I've not told my employer of either this operation or condition) since I'll be doing the operation just as soon as I return from my vacation (Of course, my employer

will be notified by myself that I've undergone this).

I spoke with the surgeon who examined me & he said I'd be in the hospital for about 5 to 7 days & then I would be released. How long thereafter I'll be fully able I can't say now.

Hal, I've decided not to go back to work after all this is over so in effect I'm actually "retired". Somehow I'll manage on the Social Security & by my own wits even though I won't be living a life of luxury. I'll manage as best I can. I'm the sole survivor of the entire Verb family (that I know of).

Anyway, getting on to other topics I know you'll be interested in.

First, I finally did hear from Max Holland. He sent me a very short note saying his book is not yet finished & with the note he enclosed the "Wilson Quarterly" article he did on Garrison. In his note Holland said "this will have to do for now".

I've joked with others that with Holland coming out with another apologetic book defending the Warren Commission just after Specter's abomination (which he called "a Passion for Truth") I suggest the subtitle for Holland's book be called "Passing for Truth". (I know I'm very anxious to do a real critical review of Holland's work as soon as it comes out! It should be even juicier than attacking the "Fetzerites"!

Dave Wrone in conversations with me on the phone tells me about his having to rewrite certain chapters of his book - & all because of Kurtz's bumbling interference. A real shame.

Dave said he's going to provide criticism on Aguilar in part of his medical interpretations which, I'm sure, Gary won't like, but, so be it!

Wrone asked me if I had heard of a new book (by Bamford) titled "Body of Secrets". Dave said the chapter (#3) on the general chiefs of staffs is highly significant in that this reveals the extreme hatred these "fellows" had for JFK. As I told Dave - & I firmly believe this - I think they are the "key" to the whole case. Are you aware of this book? Bamford previously wrote the "Puzzle Palace" & I've been told that there is an updated version of this book now in print.

By the way although Gary has not been in touch with me for almost 2 years as I was sitting eating dinner downtown in San Francisco who walks in & says "hello" to me - none other than Gary. He said he saw me in the restaurant - his car was nearby & he came in. He said he ~~had~~ "lost" my address (so that is why he wasn't in touch??!) & I told him my phone number is a listed S.F. number. He said he'd be in touch & this was several weeks ago. I've not called him since.

I'm sure you're familiar with the Wash. Post article (of 3/26/01) on the study made by D.B. Thomas of the acoustics on the fatal shot from the knoll. The article was written by George Lardner, Jr. Wrone told me that Thomas had offered the article (or study) to American magazines but none would print it so he finally put it in a British magazine. (I have the complete British article should you need it - Dave Wrone sent it to me).

I recently met with Stuart Galanor & Art Snyder when Galanor was in town (he invited both myself & Art out to dinner). Galanor's book I've not yet read (Wrone said it contained errors). An interesting thing Galanor told me is that Aguilar is working on a book with Crenshaw. Whether this is to be an updated version of Crenshaw's first book or a different one I do not know.

At that same dinner Snyder (who appeared with me at the Lancer Dallas JFK conference in 1999 where we both debunked Fetzer, Mantik & Lifton & is an excellent researcher. Snyder works at the Stanford Radiation Lab & is top-notch when it comes to this case, believe me) told me that he knew of this D.B. Thomas even before he had written that study on the acoustics. I had never heard of him (although I intend writing him on that study). By the way should you desire to write Thomas here is his full address:

D.B. THOMAS,
USDA SUBTROPICAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH LABORATORY,
2301 S. INTERNATIONAL BLVD.
WESLACO, TEXAS 78596

Snyder said he was very impressed with the scientific approach by Thomas in his study. He said he would need further time to go over the statistical basis for some judgements Thomas made. Snyder did say there were a few statistical errors he ~~found~~ found in the Thomas work but overall the study held up.

In mentioning Thomas I received a phone call from a JFK researcher who told me that Debbie Conway ("of Lancer") had E-mailed him a message that the November, 2001 Lancer JFK conference would have him as a speaker. (I'm doing my best to get to be there & I want to give a talk on "FIRST DAY EVIDENCE REVISITED" (which will be largely based on proving your work with my own recent stuff — of which I've not yet put down in print).

(By the way, in one of your last letters you mentioned that in my article ("A NEW LOOK ---") I didn't mention "silencers". You're right — I didn't — but not

because I was unaware of what you state— it was simply because I wanted the article not to go off into other aspects I was well aware of. In fact, I'm working on an article (about "first day evidence") which will definitely include the silencers aspect. I think you'll find it important. And I certainly will point this out when I do get to speak!

I'm enclosing some more of my address stickers so you won't have to keep writing it out on the envelopes you sent me.

One last item: I don't know if you read the "Smithsonian" magazine or not but I wanted to call your attention to an article in the July, 2001 issue. The article is titled "For Your Eyes Only" & is written by Hank Schlesinger. The article is about one Keith Melton & his "spy" museum. I've always been interested in cryptology, code machines, etc & the article has some interesting stuff on this. One thing I learned from this (although no proof was provided) was that the famous female spy Mata Hari was "inept" when she tried to spy for both Germany & France. Of James Bond Melton says "---in the real world of espionage (he) wouldn't survive four minutes."

Most of Melton's collection is of the Cold War period. The article does mention a reference to OSS but concentrates on the British, U.S. & Russian spying of the cold war.

One interesting comment that the article says that Melton believes that the FBI agent, Robert Hanssen, is America's most notorious spy because he did the "most damage". This would put Hanssen equal to Kim Philby, then, in my opinion.

Well, must close now & get this in the mail.

Regards,

Hal